

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF US-SOVIET ARTISTS

REF: A. MOSCOW 10965 B. MOSCOW 10096

1. SALAKHOV OF SOVIET UNION OF ARTISTS HAS INFORMED NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM (NASM) DIRECTOR MICHAEL COLLINS, IN MAY 14 LETTER (DEPT POUCHING COPY) THAT SOVIETS PLAN SEND YU. K. KOROLEV AND V. I. VOLODIN TO US UNDER SPACE ARTISTS EXCHANGE. BOTH ARE DESCRIBED AS SECRETARIES OF BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF USSR UNION OF ARTISTS (WE ASSUME THEY ARE ALSO ARTISTS). LETTER ALSO STATES THAT SOKOLOV STILL BEING CONSIDERED "AS A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE ARTISTS' UNION."

2. WE HAVE INFORMED COLLINS THAT DEPT PREPARED PROVIDE IV GRANTS FOR TWO SOVIET ARTISTS IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET ACCEPTANCE WYETH AND RIVERS. ARTISTS SHOULD VISIT US IN SEPTEMBER IN CONJUNCTION WITH US-SOVIET SPACE ART EXHIBIT AT NASM.

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3. US-SOVIET SPACE ART EXHIBIT BEGAN JULY 1 CONCURRENTLY WITH NASM OPENING AND WILL RUN UNTIL OCT 1. EXHIBIT OCCUPIES 200 LINEAR FEET. DUE TO INTEREST SHOWN BY OTHER US MUSEUMS, SMITHSONIAN TRAVELLING EXHIBIT SERVICE HAS JUST CABLED UNION OF ARTISTS REQUESTING EXTENSION OF EXHIBIT'S STAY IN US FOR ADDITIONAL YEAR. EXHIBIT HAS NOT YET BEEN CRITICALLY REVIEWED IN PRESS, AND NASM IS DELAYING MAJOR PUBLICITY EFFORT UNTIL ARRIVAL OF SOVIET ARTISTS.

4. SINCE ARTISTS' UNION HAS RECENTLY INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SOVIET ARTISTS UNDER EXCHANGE NOT YET SELECTED (PARA 3 REFTEL B), REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK FROM UNION A CLARIFICATION OF STATUS SOVIET NOMINATIONS. SUGGEST ALL SUBSEQUENT CONTACT RE TWO SOVIET ARTIST IV'S BE THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS. WE WILL THEN PASS ALL NECESSARY INFO TO NASM, WHICH WILL ACT AS HOST FOR PORTION OF SOVIETS' STAY IN US (OVERALL ITINERARY WILL BE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROGRAMMING AGENCY). KISSINGER

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